the Joint Plant Committee as given below:—

| Year | Effective from | %average increase |
|---|---|---|
| 1983 | 1-4-1983 | 4 |
| 1983 | 24-7-1983 | 4 |
| 1984 | 22-6-1984 | 15 |
| 1985 | 21-2-1985 | 15 |

(b) A comparative picture of percentage increases of steel prices in India and of the estimated Mill Composite Listed prices of Carbon Steel in some of the major steel producing countries in the world is given below:—

| Name of the country | Percentage increase in prices | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 |
| India . . | 8·0 | 15·0 | 15·0 |
| U.S.A. . . | 0·9 | 4·2 | 1·5 |
| West Germany | 1·0 | 1·2 | 0·2 |
| U.K. . . | 3·5 | 0·9 | 4·2 |
| France . . | 7·9 | 4·2 | .. |

SOURCE : "World Steel Dynamics", the Steel Strategist September, 1985

However, 4% of the price increase in India effective from 1-4-83 and 2.5 % of that in 1984 did not accrue to the main steel producers in India as these were made to meet the additional requirement of funds for equalised railway freight and Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund respectively.

**Prices of Newspapers**

17. SMT. MAIMOONASULTAN:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement of the President of Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society which appeared in the "Times of India" of January 18, 1986 to the effect that increases in prices of newspapers and advertisements had become inevitable;

(b) if so, what is the extent of increases suggested by the newspaper industry; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) The Government has seen Press report to this effect.

(b) and (c) No such data is maintained by the Government. The newspaper industry is free to increase or decrease the prices of newspaper and rates of advertisements.

18. [*Transferred to the 26th Feb. 1986*]

**Service Conditions of Staff-Artistes in AIR Doordarshan**

19. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ :
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced regular pay-scales and elaborate conditions of service for staff-artistes of All India Radio and Doordarshan including pensionary and other retirement benefits;

(b) if so, the category of artistes who have been deprived of such benefits and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any proposal under their considera-

tion of granting the benefits to these staff artistes also especially those who retired after putting in more than 20 years of service; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) Government have decided that the Staff Artistes of All India Radio and Doordarshan who are already eligible for retirement benefits like those under the Contributory Provident Fund, Gratuity etc. should be eligible for receiving pension instead of C.P.F. benefits. For this purpose the Staff Artistes have been divided in two categories :

(1) Those 'Artistes' who have to perform before the mike or appear before the T.V. Screen and (2) those who are performing duties similar to those performed by regular Government Servants.

Both the categories have been made eligible for pension on the basis of their option and a screening. The former category will continue to contract, but attractive terms and conditions have been prescribed.

No category of Staff Artistes has been excluded from the pensionary benefits.

(c) Under the above Scheme Staff Artists who retire after putting more than 20 years service would be eligible for pension. In fact for the 'Artists' category pensionary benefits become available even after 10 years of service.

(d) Does not arise.

**Conference of Non-Aligned Information Ministers in Senegal**

20. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of the Information Ministers of the Non-Aligned countries was held in the capital of Senegal in January this year.

(b) whether the Prime Minister as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement sent a message to the conference of international co-operation amongst members of the NAM in the matter of collection and dissemination of information and publicity with a view to promoting solidarity and amity amongst the member-countries and maintaining world peace, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the response of the conference to the message ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) The eighth session of the Inter-Governmental Council of the Information Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries was held in Dakar (Senegal) from 9th to 12th January 1986.

(b) The Prime Minister in this capacity as the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement had sent a Message to the Conference mentioned at (a) above. The text of the Message is given in the annexed statement (*see* below).

(c) The Message was very well appreciated and the Conference unanimously decided to adopt it as an official document.

**Statement**

The Prime Minister in his capacity as the Chairman of Non-Aligned Movement had sent the following Message to the Conference :

"The overriding concerns of the Nonaligned Movement are to preserve international peace, promote the freedom and sovereignty of nations still subjected to the denial of their rights, and secure economic justice for all peoples. Non-aligned countries must strengthen cooperation among themselves